

Using the Entry to Care Pack:

A Guide to Support Effective Practice

Introduction

As with the Children's Services Visit Pack we have created the Entry to Care Pack as part of our continuing development of fundamental practice tools to improve outcomes for all the children we work with.

Any decision regarding entry to care needs to be informed by manager oversight and relevant up to date policy and procedures on Tri-X: https://gloucestershirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_dec_look_aft.html#

We know that going into care is often a particularly difficult and significant event for children, and also know how crucial our role is in coordination of plans and ensuring that the right information is shared sensitively, safely, promptly and effectively.

As with the visit pack, the additional expectations, resources and guidance within this pack **shouldn't prevent you developing your own approach to contacts, information gathering and relationship building with children and families and colleagues, but should support you to ensure that everyone involved is informed and supported as necessary to enable the plan to proceed.**

The Entry to Care Pack also supports further team based and supervision discussion and evidence of the Fundamentals principles applied into practice – all areas can be mapped to the Fundamentals, connect to the key themes of the Essentials programme (for example the Anchor principles) and can also support your own evidence of continuing professional development, supported by the Social Work Academy.

'Entry to Care' for any child or young person requires some deliberate reflection and planning on your part prior to any move, planned or not. This relates equally to the practicalities and also importantly the impact and implications, short and long term on the child, their brothers or sisters, their parents or carers, and their wider family and friends.

Some documents are necessary to enable and evidence the informed consent of parents or information sharing about entry into care. Others are necessary to ensure that key personal information is made available to other professionals to progress each child's plan.

Importantly the individual needs and experiences of each child are considered and need to be evidenced, both to record and evaluate how outcomes are identified and met, and also to maintain and develop each child's story and understanding of decisions made.

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The following documents should support and inform your initial planning and discussions with children and their families for any move to care.

Managers and Advanced Practitioners will support staff to identify and use the relevant documents appropriate to each child's circumstances.

- Checklist for Social Workers and Support Workers:
- supporting Children and Young People coming into Care
- S20 Agreement
- DOA Form
- Coram BAAF Consent
- IHA Paperwork
- Complaints form
- Voice Card
- Mind of My Own information

A key document to support better transitions for children and young people, and directly linked to your role in supporting and advocating for each child is the *Checklist for Social Workers supporting children and young people coming into Care*.

This has been created to support children and young people who may be anxious, distressed or uncertain about coming into care. It aims to support the child or young person, parents, social worker, foster carer and other professionals to ensure that the practical arrangements for the transition happen at the right time. It is also to identify and support the emotional needs of the child coming into care.

Advanced Practitioners in your team will support team discussion and development of effective use of these tools with you.

As this resource develops effective practice examples and additional tools will be included and feedback from teams and the AP forum incorporated into building the available materials.

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